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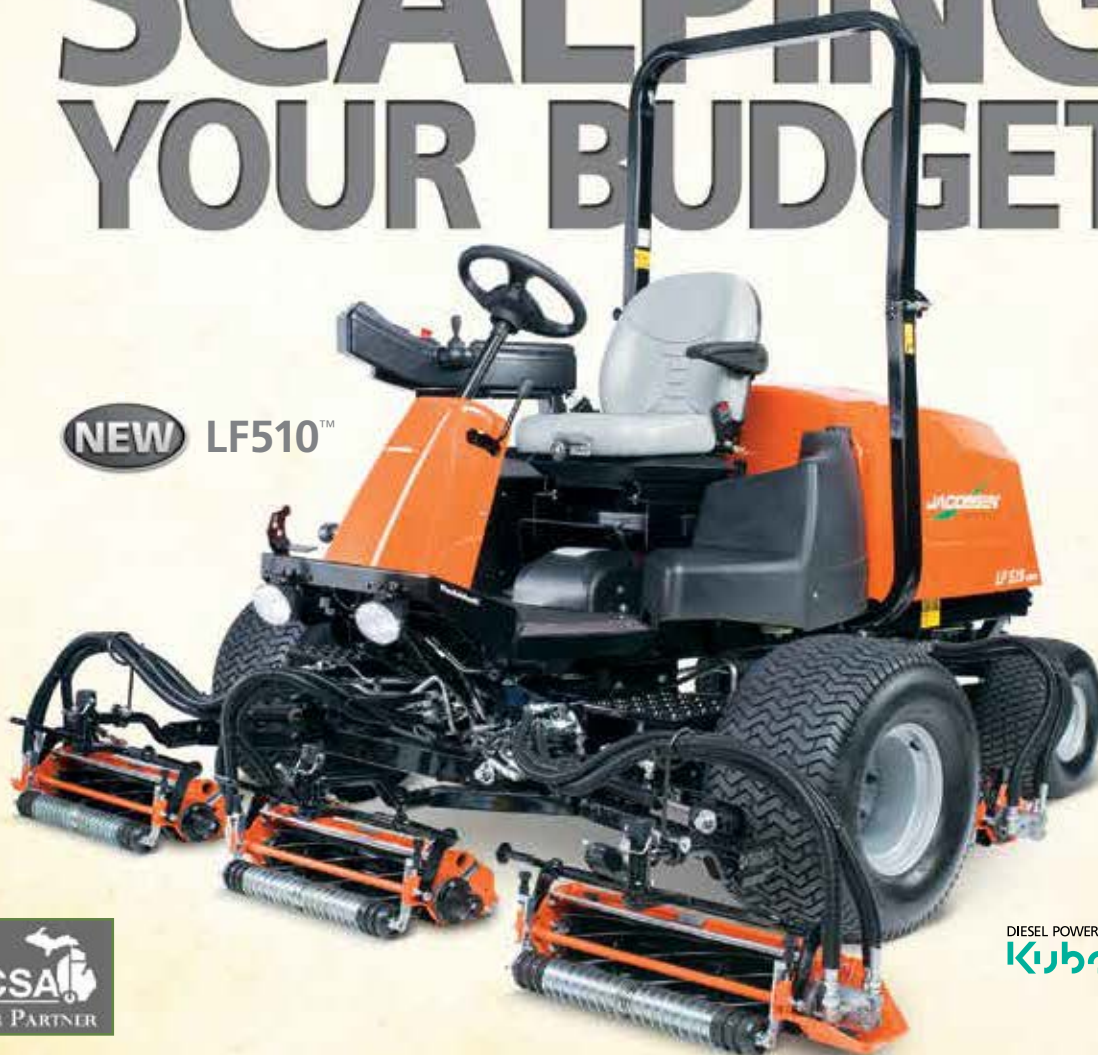
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# COURSE CONDITIONS



FEATURING 2014  
MiGCSA PRESIDENT  
**GREGG  
MATTHEWS**  
AT TAM-O-SHANTER  
COUNTRY CLUB

HOME FIELD ADVANTAGE:  
TURFGRASS AT THE MSU  
LIBRARIES

2014 GAM  
SUPERINTENDENT OF THE  
YEAR AWARD

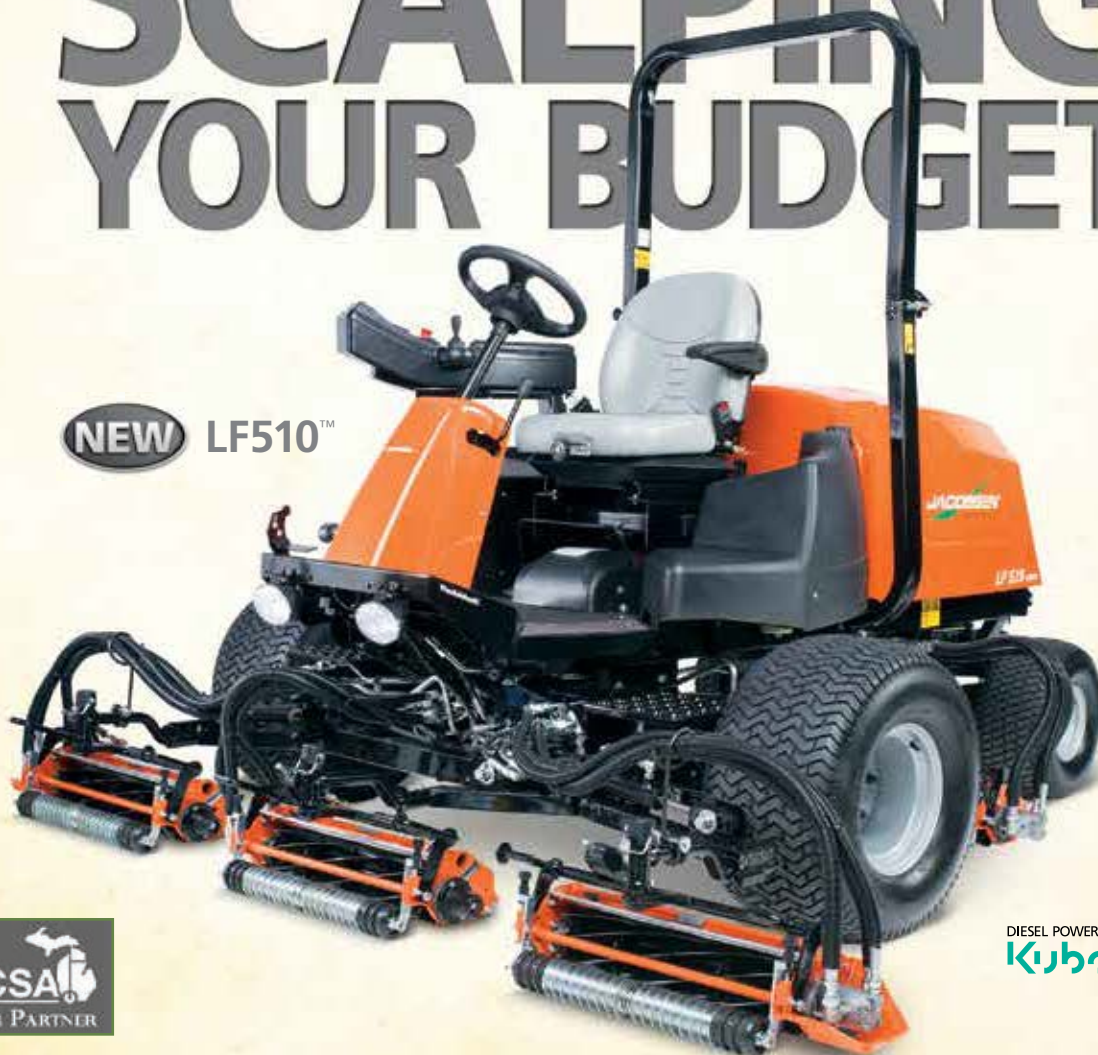
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Tam-O-Shanter Country Club

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Martin Thompson,  
Equipment Technician,  
Travis Pointe Country Club

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Craig McKinley,  
Assistant Superintendent,  
Bucks Run Golf Course





## COURSE CONDITIONS

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## MiGCSA MEMBERSHIP REPORT

### SUMMARY OF CLASSES 5/26/14

|                  | CURRENT<br>MEMBERSHIP | SPRING 2013<br>MEMBERSHIP |
|------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Class A</b>   | <b>255</b>            | <b>237</b>                |
| <b>Class SM</b>  | <b>74</b>             | <b>68</b>                 |
| <b>Class C</b>   | <b>121</b>            | <b>100</b>                |
| <b>Class AA</b>  | <b>29</b>             | <b>29</b>                 |
| <b>Class AFF</b> | <b>181</b>            | <b>157</b>                |
| <b>Class D</b>   | <b>50</b>             | <b>35</b>                 |
| <b>Class E</b>   | <b>16</b>             | <b>16</b>                 |
| <b>Class H</b>   | <b>29</b>             | <b>27</b>                 |
| <b>Class R</b>   | <b>11</b>             | <b>10</b>                 |
| <b>Class SA</b>  | <b>33</b>             | <b>28</b>                 |
| <b>TOTAL</b>     | <b>799</b>            | <b>707</b>                |

Please log in to your account at [www.migcsa.org](http://www.migcsa.org) to renew your membership for 2014. If you are unsure of your status contact us at [info@migcsa.org](mailto:info@migcsa.org) or 1-888-3-MiGCSA.

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# PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE



GREGG L. MATHEWS

*It is with great honor that I represent you as the President of the Michigan Golf Course Superintendents Association. As the sixth President, I would like to start by thanking those who built the foundation of our association, Past Presidents, John Fulling, Steve Hammon, Ron Dahlin, Jay Eccleton and Greg Pattison. Along with these great leaders I also want to thank all those that have served and continue to serve on the Board of Directors as well as those on all the committees that keep our great group moving forward.*

*I joined the Board of Directors representing the Detroit District in 2007. At that time I knew I wanted to be part of the leadership team of the MiGCSA but did not ever think of holding this office. I must say there is no greater feeling than to sit in the Board room with these great men and devise plans, events and educational opportunities for you the members. Being part of the solution is a great feeling. We are all part of a phenomenal industry. To give back to something that has giving me so much is the least I can do.*

*Every two years, the Officers and Board of Directors as well as GCSAA Field Staff Steve Randall and John Miller hold a strategic planning meeting. We once again met for this the first week of April. This meeting gives us direction and goals to achieve for the next 2 years. Walking away from this 2 day meeting solidified the direction of this great association. Being involved is so important. The MiGCSA is your association. Please get involved. There are so many great committees including Assistant Superintendents, By-Laws, Communications, Education, Government Relations, Membership and Scholarships. If any of these spark your interests, give Adam Ikamas a call or email and sign up. If serving is not in your wheel house, please attend the over 25 events located all over our great state.*

*The MiGCSA website ([www.MiGCSA.org](http://www.MiGCSA.org)) is fantastic. It is your go to site for all information about the association, industry partners, news and information of everything you need to know in the state and region. Adam Ikamas, our Executive Director manages the site. If you have any questions concerning the website, please email Adam at [adamikamas@migcsa.org](mailto:adamikamas@migcsa.org) or give him a call, 1-888-3-MIGCSA.*

*For many members, this season has started out rough. The south eastern portion of the state has been devastated by the record setting winter we all received. Many courses are reporting moderate to severe turf loss due to the wrath of the POLAR VORTEX. Please know the association is here for you. Utilize all that is offered for support. The Turf staff at MSU is connected. If you need assistance, they are here for you. We are all in this together, and help is just a click or phone call away.*

*I am honored to be your President. The MiGCSA is looked upon throughout the country as a leading association in the golf industry. I am a proud member and you should be as well. If there is anything we can do for you, please contact us. I look forward to seeing you at our events. I wish you all an excellent year.*

Respectfully,



Gregg L. Mathews



# HOME FIELD ADVANTAGE: TURFGRASS AT THE MSU LIBRARIES

PROVIDED BY PETE COOKINGHAM

HEAD, TURFGRASS INFORMATION CENTER, MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

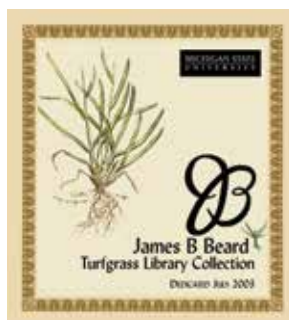
There is only one public 'turfgrass library' that we know of in the world at the present time. That it came to be at Michigan State University (MSU) is mostly an accident of history (literally, who played handball with who during lunch.....sometimes very small events have very long-term consequences). Regardless of the why or who (Beard & Payne & Watson & Chapin & Rieke & Bengeyfield & Haka, etc.), we can say that the MSU Libraries' turfgrass-related efforts are pretty-much unique at this point in time.

**The Why of What We Do:** We provide a service in support of research and education efficiency and effectiveness – the foundation, if you will, of turfgrass science and management as both an academic and professional enterprise. One of the defining components of a 'profession' is the existence of an identifiable and discrete body-of-knowledge associated with the profession. We're the repository, and the gateway, to that 'written' body of knowledge of turfgrass science. Please note especially that we don't create the knowledge, or interpret it, or evaluate it. We collect it, process it, and make it more accessible.

**Working Worldwide:** While we're based in Michigan, most of our 'users' are not. In fact, many of our users don't even realize that we're a 'library', for that matter. To most, we're just 'another resource' (even if a unique one) to draw upon from one's professional or pre-professional toolbox.

We're as concerned about cricket pitches as we are about golf courses or soccer fields or lawns in parks or sod production. We monitor, and collect, the turf science and management literature regardless of industry sector or geographic focus. Our intent is to collect turf materials 'exhaustively', which most libraries don't try and do except in specialized areas. One of the MSU Libraries' designated areas of specialization, and excellence, is turfgrass (others include sub-Saharan Africa and comic books).

**Bricks & Mortar:** The Turfgrass Information Center (TIC) is the focal physical plant associated with the MSU Libraries' turf efforts. It includes the ongoing development and curation of the turfgrass library collections, both written and digital, as well as the construction and hosting of the Turfgrass Information File (TGIF) database.



## GETTING TO TGIF ONLINE

MiGCSA members have two primary pathways to get to TGIF online; they both 'end up' at the same place:

1. GCSAA class A, SM, C, ISM, AA or A-RT members have access to TGIF from within the "Course – Tools and Resources" tab of the GCSAA website.
2. All Michigan residents have access to TGIF via the Michigan Electronic Library (MeL). Start at mel.org; the 'Turfgrass Information File' will be listed under "Databases".

To get started using TGIF, a 'Quick Start' introductory video is linked off our home page at tic.msu.edu, or directly access it at:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mq\\_YDoyWk0g&feature=youtu.be](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mq_YDoyWk0g&feature=youtu.be)





**Online:** TGIF is the online tool that provides access to the turfgrass research and management literature. It is currently in use at 74 academic institutions on three continents, and is accessible via to the lead golf turf professional organizations in six countries, including GCSAA. Yes, you can find some wonderful resources via Google, including many that are in TGIF, but do you want to be OK/adequate or do you want to be thorough? There are significant professional materials that you can identify via TGIF that you can't via Google, at all. How confident are you if you go to your doctor and he/she tell s you, 'Oh, I did a Google search on this?'

**The Digital Library:** While TGIF provides the ability to search for materials, the digitization and hosting of online versions of many materials provides the ability to 'get to the real thing' directly. Over the past fifteen years, much of our effort has been focused on moving towards a true 'digital library' of turfgrass materials. Presently, about 58% of TGIF records point to full-text versions; all materials that we scan and host require written agreements giving us permission to do so.

**Fundraising:** Without continuing support from within the turfgrass industry, the ongoing effort to build both the collections and the database (in particular) would have been impossible. The USGA Turfgrass and Environmental Research Committee and the USGA Green Section have led that support over a thirty year period, and the now greatly broadened base of support continues, and needs to continue, to expand worldwide. Since beginning in the late 90's, the establishment of the Turfgrass Information Center Endowment Fund at MSU intends to provide an ongoing 'guarantee' of the work and ensure a sustainable future for the efforts. This is a long-term gig. We need your ongoing support.

### **The Historic Thread: Beal to Today**

Though it certainly wasn't planned, as it has turned out the Center overlooks the Beal Garden on the MSU Campus, arguably the site of some of the first systematic turf research in North America. In 1872, William J. Beal established a 'grass garden', which evolved into the 'Wild Garden', and later into the more substantial Botanical Garden that we know today. Beal's early interest in grasses, including lawn grasses, continued throughout his career.

Soon turfgrass science will have a published history to fully document the past 100+ years in the evolution of turf culture as an art and science. The Michigan

## **THE PHYSICAL COLLECTIONS**

Two major named turf Collections exist at MSU:

### **O.J. Noer Memorial Turfgrass Collection**

Beginning in 1968 with a donation of portions of pioneering turf agronomist O.J. Noer's personal library, via the O. J. Noer Research Foundation, continuous donations and purchases have built the Noer Collection since that time. This is the 'circulating' portion of MSU's turfgrass holdings, so that the majority of Noer items are available for loan to individuals, via their local libraries, throughout the world (or to you in person if a Michigan resident).

### **James B Beard Turfgrass Library Collection**

Dedicated in 2003, the bulk of the private library of Dr. Beard was donated to MSU, intended to function as an archive collection for turfgrass science and the turfgrass industry. Ongoing donations by the Beards, and others throughout the world, have continued to build this extraordinary Collection. Beard Collection materials are available for use within the MSU Libraries only – unless they have been digitized.

Individually, each of these turf Collections is stronger than any other single location in the world. Together they are stronger than all the rest of the Big Ten put together. That's OK; we work for and with them all also.



State University Press will be publishing, in 2014, the Beard's Turfgrass History and Literature: Golf, Lawns and Sports, a 550 page work which will document and interpret that history, primarily as reflected in the publication record of the discipline. Featuring extracts and photographs from a wide range of materials, we now will have a single volume to explain, as an industry, that "this is how we came to be."

The mission of the Turfgrass Information Center of the Michigan State University Libraries is to collect, preserve, and make available that long and significant printed (and now also, digital) professional and scientific record and heritage. You can see some of it online, much more of it in person at the MSU Libraries, and learn about it through the Beard's forthcoming book. We think all three avenues are worthy of your time!



Pete Cookingham is currently a Librarian serving as Head of the Turfgrass Information Center (TIC) at the Michigan State University Libraries, home of the O. J. Noer Memorial Turfgrass Collection, the James B Beard Turfgrass Library Collection, and the Turfgrass Information File (TGIF), an online database of turfgrass science resources produced cooperatively with the United States Golf Association (USGA).

After earning a B.S. degree in Recreation & Park Administration from the University of Wyoming, Pete spent almost 10 years in park facility operations, management and planning, in both the public and private sectors, including 3 years as General Manager of an 1,700 member, 1,800 acre Property Owners Association in rural Illinois. He then returned to academics specifically to work in applied research information transfer and earned an M.S. in Library & Information Science from the University of Illinois.

Pete has been involved with TIC and TGIF since 1985.

### VISITING TIC AT MSU

Don't be a stranger. The Turfgrass Information Center (TIC) is a public library – but one dedicated to turfgrass science and culture. Stop by to use it as you would any other library – to browse, search for materials of interest, do research, or learn about turf history and current practice through our displays and materials. We're on the 3rd floor of the West Wing of the Main Library on MSU's campus; best-bet parking is just across the river between Sparty and Spartan Stadium. TIC itself is open M-F, 9-5, year-round, and regardless of class schedules. The Main Library has much more extended hours of operation, and is open 24 hrs./day during much of the school year. Since Michigan residents are eligible for community library privileges from the MSU Libraries; you can check many items out directly at no cost (try doing that at U of M....).

In any case, visit us online at [tic.msu.edu](http://tic.msu.edu), and follow us on social media!

### THE NOER/ MILORGANITE® IMAGE COLLECTION

This recently launched online gallery of turf images spans fifty years of turf history. These digitized slides, made available through the courtesy of the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD), the producer of Milorganite, range all across North American turf facilities. Check to see if your course has any items within this archive; and please suggest additional details or locations not yet known (or perhaps incorrectly identified). See: [noermmsd.lib.msu.edu](http://noermmsd.lib.msu.edu).

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## THE 2014 SPRING MANAGEMENT MEETINGS

This year the three Spring Meetings the MiGCSA hosts every year all set attendance records. We really appreciate the support from our members and hope this is a new trend for all of our events.

The first meeting was on February 25th at The Inn at St. Johns where MiGCSA Board Member Dave Pawluk, CGCS was our host. 104 members attended this event which was highlighted by Dr. Kevin Frank and his "Got Ice?" presentation and featured Matt Giese, Technical Representative, Syngenta, Dan Mausolf & Jeff Sweet, CGCS, Randy Burgess CCM, CCE, General Manager, Prestwick Village Golf Club, Craig Cutler, General Manager, Country Club of Detroit & Corey S. Gerhart CCM, General Manager/ COO, Barton Hills Country Club, Dr. Ron Calhoun, Residex, Frank A. Benages, EmployeesOnly.net, Kate Moore, Executive Director, MGCOA, Brian Schwehofer, MTF President and Adam Ikamas on the MTESP 2.0.

The second of the three meetings was hosted again at Egypt Valley Country Club by MiGCSA Vice President Jeff Holmes, CGCS on March 13th. Close to 100 members attended this event featuring Dr. Ron Calhoun, Residex, Bob Vavrek, USGA, Greg Lyman, Dr. Derek Settle, Bayer, Mike Kestly, Kestly Development, Pat Sisk, CGCS, Greensweep, Brian Schwehofer, MTF President and Adam Ikamas, CGCS.

The final stop was at Treetops on March 25th thanks to hosts Mark Wildeman, CGCS and Doug Hoeh. Tom Doak headlined this event along with speakers Kyle Miller, BASF, Greg Lyman, Adam Ikamas, CGCS, Brian Schwehofer, Mike Burkman, John Garlets, Spartan Distributors and Mike Kestly, Kestly Development. Over 90 Members and their Equipment Technicians attended, the Techs came together for

a free seminar in the morning with Mike Thorsen, Jacobsen Michigan, Ed Kortman, Hope College, and John Garlets, Spartan Distributors before joining the Superintendent track in the afternoon.

A very big thank you to the Education Co-Chairman: Jeff Holmes, CGCS & Dave Pawluk, CGCS and the committee of Jim Bluck, CGCS, Eric Davey, Dr. Ron Calhoun & Rob Pylar who planned these events and topics. If you have any suggestions for future topics or ideas the committee is always welcome to direct member input.



*The Western Meeting was almost sold out.*



*Over 100 in attendance for the Detroit Spring Meeting.*

# 2014 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| Wednesday, July 9       | Mid Golf Event (Bucks Run G.C., Mt Pleasant)                        |
| Wednesday, July 30      | Tuck Tate Championship (Grand Traverse Resort, The Bear, Acme)      |
| Thursday, August 7      | MTF LaFontaine Outing (Coyote Preserve, Fenton)                     |
| Wednesday, August 13    | MTF Field Day (MSU Hancock Center, East Lansing)                    |
| Tuesday, August 19      | MiGCSA State Championship (Radrick Farms G.C., Ann Arbor)           |
| Friday, September 5     | Assistant & Student Networking Golf Outing (College Fields, Okemos) |
| Tuesday September 9     | Western Golf Day (Battle Creek Country Club, Battle Creek)          |
| Monday, September 22    | Wee One Fundraiser (Orchard Lake C.C., Orchard Lake Village)        |
| Wednesday, September 24 | Equipment Tech. Meeting (Crystal Mountain Resort, Thompsonville)    |
| Monday, October 6       | The Big Event (Tam O' Shanter Country Club, West Bloomfield)        |

Please visit [www.MiGCSA.org](http://www.MiGCSA.org) for all of the latest and most up to date information. You can quickly and easily register for events, view past issues of Course Conditions, browse and post items for sale, post and browse classifieds, and so much more. If you need help logging in email us at [info@migcsa.org](mailto:info@migcsa.org)

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**JOHN DEERE**  
LANDSCAPES





## JOHN FULLING, CGCS RECEIVES THE 2014 GAM SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YEAR AWARD

The 2014 Golf Association of Michigan Annual Meeting was held at Muskegon Country Club on May 5th host Superintendent was Jeff Hopkins. At this meeting many awards for championship golf are handed out along with some great awards for service to golf in Michigan and the GAM. Along with these awards is the Superintendent of the year, this award started in 2011 with Ted Woehrle and was followed by Fritz McMullen in 2012 and Clem Wolfrom in 2013. This year the award went to John Fulling, CGCS Superintendent at Kalamazoo C.C., MiGCSA & MTF Past President and current member of the GCSAA Board of Directors. Congratulations to John on this well-deserved honor.



David Baughman, GAM Green Committee Chairman, John Fulling, CGCS, Gordie LaFontaine, MTF Executive Director



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## MSU, USGA, MiGCSA, GAM AND OAKLAND HILLS HELP GOLF COURSES RECOVER FROM ICY WINTER

BY: GAM MEDIA CONSULTANT, GREG JOHNSON AND WITH PERMISSION FROM THE GAM TO REPRINT

**B**ob Breitmeyer owns four public golf courses in the greater Detroit area and normally each would be busy welcoming spring and golfers on April 1.

Instead he spent four hours with 215 other interested parties Tuesday at an Ice & Recovery Seminar hosted by Oakland Hills Country Club and featuring the coordinated efforts of the Michigan State University Turf Team and extension specialists, the United States Golf Association, the Michigan Golf Course Superintendents Association and the Golf Association of Michigan.

"I'm trying to get as much information as I can," he said. "It was a brutal winter. We had that ice storm just before Christmas. I feel bad for all the golf course superintendents whose jobs depend on how the golf courses look. I've been talking a lot with my guys, and I have them here so we can prepare to open our golf courses."

The message from the panel of speakers was clear: Michigan's courses, especially those in areas hit hardest by the late December ice storm, have suffered damage to greens and fairways, and help in both advice and research data is available for recovery and renovation.

"This is more about recovery than gloom and doom, and we know there is some gloom and doom out there," said Steve Cook, CGCS, MG the Director of Agronomy at Oakland Hills who proposed the seminar for not only fellow superintendents, but public course owners, members of green's committees and others with a stake in getting a golf course open.

"If it's brown, we want to help them bring it back, and if it is dead, we want to help them with the best ways to replace it," he said.

The audience heard presentations by Dr. Jeff Andresen, associated professor and extension specialist for MSU as well as the state climatologist, Dr. Kevin Frank, MSU turf extension specialist, Robert Vavrek, USGA senior agronomist for the North-Central Region of the U.S., and Dr. Trey Rogers, MSU turfgrass professor.

Andresen reported that southeast Michigan had its second snowiest year since 1881, or 15 years before golf courses appeared in Michigan. Frank talked about the research done over the winter that demonstrated there will be damaged courses in Michigan, especially in areas from Lansing to Detroit. Vavrek and Rogers talked about possible solutions.

"If this was a small issue there would be a small group here," Frank said. "Instead, we have 215 people and we won't really know the full extent of the damage for a few more weeks yet."

Rogers said the grasses that survived the winter on the state's golf courses are a month behind.

"To the plant, it's March 5," he said.



He urged the golf courses representatives to not rush any plan or opening of a course as part of what he said are three rules to remember.

"Mother Nature rules, promote growth and do not rush," he said.

The severe winter conditions and potential damage to golf courses has the GAM, after consultation with MiGCSA, pushing back the official handicap posting season two weeks to April 15. In determining the start of an active season, the USGA Handicap System manual states that playing conditions should be consistent with those observed when the course was rated.

"I'm not sure what I'm going to find when the snow is finally gone," said Bob Koutnik, the owner of Fox River Golf Course in Grayling where he estimates 18 inches of snow is still covering his fairways and greens.

"I came down because I'm curious about what these people think I might find, and what I can do about it when I find it. It has just been very cold this winter, at least on many more days than I can remember."

The crowd was given contact information for the speakers on the panel and urged to take advantage of their knowledge and research. Adam Ikamas, CGCS Executive Director of the MiGCSA said "It's important that more people than just superintendents understand the challenges this winter has presented for golf courses."

"We did most of the technical stuff in February with the superintendents," he said. "This is more of a general session to inform managers, owners, greens committees that there is great research and help available and maybe help them understand better the challenges facing their superintendents."

The seminar was recorded and will be available for viewing soon at the MiGCSA web site: [www.micgsa.org](http://www.micgsa.org). Dr. Frank can be reached by email at [frankk@msu.edu](mailto:frankk@msu.edu). Vavrek can be reached via email at [bvavrek@usga.org](mailto:bvavrek@usga.org).



## A FULL ROUND



# GREGG MATTHEWS

*MiGCSA President Gregg Matthews started in the golf business at Glens Falls Country Club in upstate New York running a weed eater. Gregg knew he wanted to make this into a career after mentoring from his then boss Superintendent Chris Frielinghaus, CGCS. He has been the Superintendent at Tam-O-Shanter Country Club for a year and a half. He will be celebrating his 10th Anniversary with his wife Lindsay this October, they live in White Lake with their two sons Reece, 7 ½ and Graham 1 ½.*

## WHERE DID YOU RECEIVE YOUR EDUCATION?

Rutgers University. **What part of that education do you use most often on the job?** I can hardly remember college, it was so long ago. **What course did you go to after college?** Sea Marsh GC, Ocean GC and Harbor Town Golf Links at Sea Pines Plantation on Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. **Who was the first Superintendent you worked for after college?** Jim Creagan. **What did you learn from that Superintendent in the first year?** How to multi task

## WHAT ARE YOUR EXPECTATIONS FROM THE MICHIGAN GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION?

I expect the MiGCSA to offer great opportunities for education, golf events and unparalleled camaraderie amongst the membership. **Where can the MiGCSA improve?** To continue promoting the Profession

## WHAT ARE YOUR EXPECTATIONS FROM THE GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA?

To offer the best continuing education and the promotion of the Superintendent. **Where can the GCSAA improve?** Better promotion of the Superintendent

## HOW HAVE YOU GIVEN BACK TO YOUR PROFESSION?

I have been part of the leadership of the MiGCSA for 8 years and many years prior with the Carolinas Superintendents Association and even back in New York with the Northeastern Superintendents Association.

## WHAT ARE YOUR HOBBIES OR SPECIAL INTERESTS?

I am most proud of being a dad of 2 boys. I love being in the mountains and alpine skiing. I live on a lake and boating gives me an escape from life on land. There is nothing better than boat drinks.

## WHAT IS THE MOST DIFFICULT PART OF YOUR JOB?

Time management. **What is the easiest part of your job?** Seeing it all come together. **What are the biggest issues facing superintendents today?** Uncertain health insurance future. **What do you believe the biggest issue will be in the future?** Water availability.

## WHAT RESEARCH WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE ACCOMPLISHED FOR TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT?

How we can stop winterkill with poa





**WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF TEN YEARS FROM NOW?**

Watching Reece graduate from high school. **How would you like to be remembered 100 years from now?** I hope that my grandchildren will remember me as a fun grandpa.

**WHO INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST ABOUT TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT?**

Every Superintendent I worked for has influenced me in some ways however, Chris Frielinghaus, CGCS, Glens Falls Country Club truly showed me what this business is all about and how best to manage a private club.

**WHAT IS THE MOST VALUABLE THING YOU HAVE LEARNED IN THE GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT PROFESSION?**

It's just grass, don't make it too complicated

**HOW DO YOU RATE IMPORTANCE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT'S ROLE AND INFLUENCE IN THE GOLF INDUSTRY?**

Obviously our role is quite important in the industry. Our influence on every day operations is the greatest of all department heads at the club.

**WHAT PERCENTAGE OF YOUR TIME IS DEVOTED TO NON-AGRONOMIC GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT?**

60-70%

**WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF THE ROLE OF AN ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT?**

As my best friend puts it, the AGCS is the "Field General" on the course.

**WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF THE ROLE OF THE GOLF COURSE MECHANIC/TECHNICIAN?**

You can grow the best turf in the world, but if your mowers are not properly prepared, nothing else matters. The Equipment Tech's role is incredibly large. I am grateful for my Tech, Tom Mungons is the best in the business and a great guy.

**WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF WALKING A GOLF COURSE VS. RIDING A GOLF COURSE IN TODAY'S GAME?**

I seem to always play better when I walk. Walking certainly is easier on the turf than golf carts.

**WHAT IS YOUR BIGGEST PET PEEVE CONCERNING GOLF COURSE ETIQUETTE?**

There is an incredible disconnect with golfers and etiquette. It seems most have forgotten golf etiquette. The PGA/USGA need to revisit this issue and make it a priority amongst current and future golfers.

**WHAT ARE YOUR OPINIONS OF GREEN SPEED AND THE GAME OF GOLF TODAY?**

Golf on TV makes golfers think they want fast greens. When in reality, many common golfers can't handle or even know what it all means.



## 5 THINGS YOU DID NOT KNOW ABOUT GREGG MATTHEWS

1. I WAS BORN AND RAISED IN GLENS FALLS, NEW YORK. GLENS FALLS IS LOCATED IN THE SOUTHERN ADIRONDACK MOUNTAINS. GLENS FALLS IS CLOSER TO MONTREAL, CANADA, THAN NEW YORK CITY.
2. I HAVE BEEN A RED WINGS FAN SINCE I WAS 10 YEARS OLD. THE ADIRONDACK RED WINGS PLAYED IN GLENS FALLS, AND WON THE CALDER CUP AT LEAST ONCE LED BY COACH BARRY MELROSE.
3. MY WIFE LINDSAY AND I ARE PROUD PARENTS OF 2 BOYS, REECE IS 7 ½ AND GRAHAM IS 1 ½. BOTH LINDSAY AND I SAY, "TWO KIDS ARE ENOUGH FOR US"
4. I STARTED SKIING WHEN I WAS 5 YEARS OLD. SKIING CONTINUES TO BE A HUGE PASSION OF MINE. I LOVE THE FEELING I GET WHILE IN THE MOUNTAINS. LINDSAY AND I ARE FORTUNATE TO SKI IN COLORADO EVERY WINTER.
5. LINDSAY AND I WERE MARRIED ON MACKINAC ISLAND, OCTOBER 9, 2004. MISSION POINT WAS A GREAT SPOT FOR WEDDING FESTIVITIES AND A BIG PARTY. OUR HONEY MOON WAS IN THE MAYAN RIVIERA, MEXICO.



## RADRICK FARMS RECEIVES CLEAN CORPORATE CITIZEN AWARD

BY: JOHN MILLER, CGCS, GCSAA GREAT LAKES FIELD STAFF

At a reception on the grounds of Radrick Farms, Dan Mausolf, Golf Course Superintendent, and the rest of the Radrick Farms staff gathered to be presented with a Clean Corporate Citizen Award from the State of Michigan's Department of Environmental Quality. On hand from Radrick Farms were General Manager Paul Scott, Club House Manager Jon Moll and Golf Course Superintendent Dan Mausolf. Debra Swartz was also present from E-Par, and Environmental Specialist group. Dr. Kevin Frank attended from Michigan State University along with John Fulling, CGCS, GCSAA Board of Directors member and John Miller, CGCS, GCSAA Field Staff Representative from the Great Lakes Region.

The Clean Corporate Citizen Award is a voluntary program that the State of Michigan sponsors for the business community. To earn the award Radrick Farms had to complete three steps: Certification in a Pollution Prevention (P2) program, creation of an Environmental Management System that meets ISO 14001 standards and is subject to Public and DEQ Review. Radrick Farms is the first golf course in the state of Michigan to receive the Clean Corporate Citizen Award.

Golf Course Superintendent Dan Mausolf had a major influence in helping the golf course receive the award. Dan led the golf course to becoming an Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program Golf Course, a

Groundwater Guardian Green Site, Michigan Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Program, Community Partners for Clean Streams as well as the Clean Corporate Citizen Program. Dan also put together a brochure that outlines all of the environmental programs, outreach and practices that take place at Radrick Farms.

[http://radrick.umich.edu/wp-content/uploads/EnvStewardshipGude\\_FINAL-2014.pdf](http://radrick.umich.edu/wp-content/uploads/EnvStewardshipGude_FINAL-2014.pdf)



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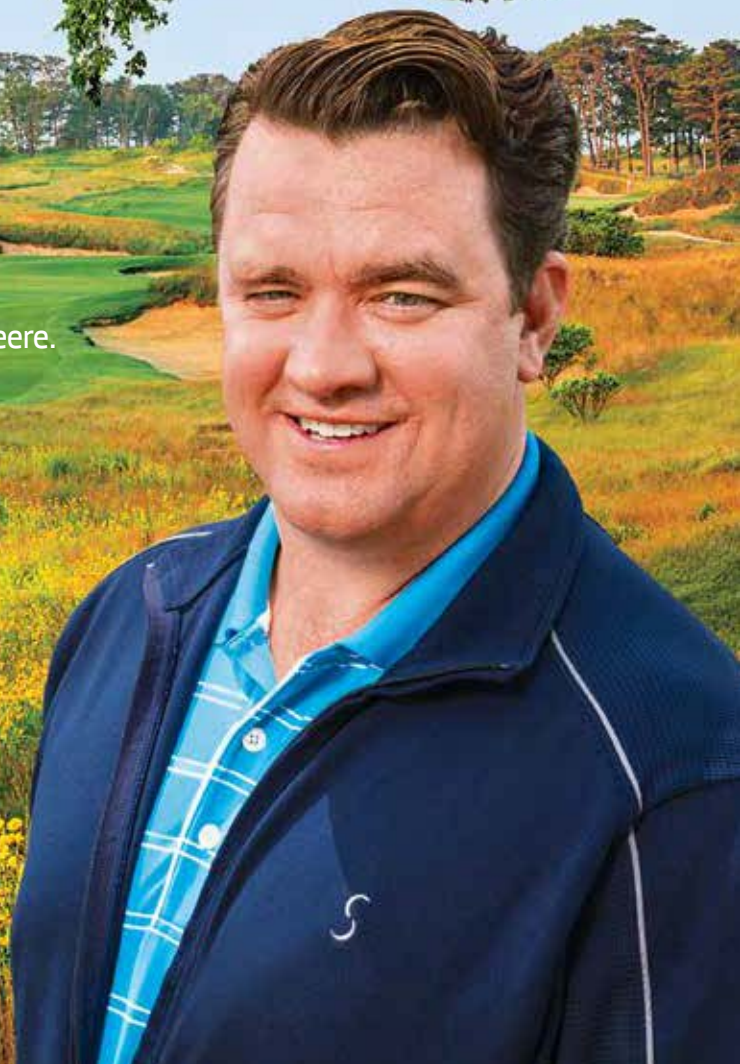




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*Sebonack Golf Club, Southampton, NY*



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## INFRASTRUCTURE IS THE KEY

Everyone in the golf business has heard the tongue in cheek saying, “what are the three most important components to a good golf course?” The answer being: “drainage, drainage, drainage”. And, I have often heard the saying as “irrigation, irrigation, and irrigation”. The point being: the quality and integrity of the infrastructure of a golf course – the drainage and irrigation systems – are critical to making all other parts of the golf course function and shine.

No matter how beautifully shaped the bunkers on a golf course may be, if the bottoms are filled with water, or golfers have to slog thru birdbaths to play out of them, a negative experience will be remembered. No matter how interesting the contours of newly renovated greens may be, if the turf is dying or crusty due to inadequate irrigation regimes, negative comments will pervade in the clubhouse.

As an architect and designer, it can be frustrating to see the design of a golf course get overshadowed – and even degraded – due to poor infrastructure. Being professionals with vision, we see the quality of a golf design -- whether ours, or someone else's – despite problems with drainage or irrigation. Our experience is comparable to a building architect visiting an old, run-down, Victorian home, and being able to appreciate the great design, even though there are leaks all over the place, and the paint has peeled off.

But, unfortunately, most golfers – like most homeowners – do not have a similar sensibility. This is understandable. Unless design and aesthetics is your passion – most people want to experience a home or a golf course that is free from flaws that make the experience unpleasant. Even those who do appreciate quality design, and are able to overlook negative infrastructure issues, would rather not actually sleep in a leaky house, or play golf on a soggy golf course.

Therefore, the saying above holds true. If architects and owners want their wonderful and prideful designs to be appreciated by the majority of golfers, it is imperative to ensure the infrastructure functions well. Therefore, as a remodeling/

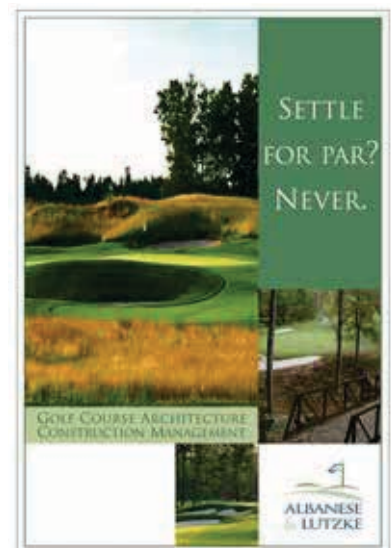
renovation project is being contemplated, infrastructure aspects need to be reviewed, analyzed and designed as thoroughly as the pure strategic and aesthetic golf components, such as the bunkers, tees, greens and other features.

The order in which the golf course is re-designed is also key. I am usually a bit dismayed when our design team is brought in to design golf features – such as bunkers, tees or greens – and the client says “and, by the way, we just put in a new irrigation/drainage system last year”. Because, this usually means having to re-spend money once newly designed greens, tees or bunkers are considered. This disorder does not have to be the case. When considering remodeling, the entire golf course needs to be incorporated – with the infrastructure being at the forefront.

I often compare golf course remodeling to home remodeling. Every home needs to replace their roof or the hot water heater at some point during the life of the structure. The same holds true for a golf course. The drainage and irrigation systems are not meant to last forever. They need to be replaced/remodeled at some point during the life of the golf landscape.

So, if/when you are considering a golf course remodeling project. Remember the adage: “The three keys to a quality golf venue are: drainage, drainage, drainage.”

**Paul Albanese,**  
ASGCA is a principal  
with Albanese &  
Lutzke, Golf Course  
Architects/Construction  
Managers. They have  
an office in Plymouth,  
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## UNDER THE HOOD



# MARTIN THOMPSON

*Martin Thompson is the Equipment Technician at Travis Pointe Country Club. He has been married for six years to my wife Alexis. They have a five year old lab/pit-bull mix, Luna and a nine year old cat, Zoey. He became involved in the golf business when his good friend, and now Superintendent at Radrick Farms Golf Course, Dan Mausolf introduced him to a school in Florida that offered a Turf Equipment Management program. He always enjoyed working on equipment, he just pointed me in the direction of the golf industry.*

## 1. WHERE DID YOU RECEIVE YOUR EDUCATION?

I attended high school at Whitmore Lake High School, Whitmore Lake, MI. I have an Associate Degree in Science, majoring in Turf Equipment Management from Lake City Community College, Lake City, FL. I graduated Magna Cum Laude in 2004 from Lake City. This is the only school that offers a Turf Equipment Management program in the states.

## 2. WHAT ARE YOUR EXPECTATIONS FROM THE MICHIGAN GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION?

I would like the MiGCSA to help keep all the technicians informed on what is to come in the future of the business and offer training seminars or certification classes to help keep the technicians up to date on things.

## 3. WHAT IS THE EASIEST PART OF YOUR JOB?

The easiest part of the job is taking a ride on the golf course on an early summer morning while the dew is still on the grass and the sun is starting to rise, enjoying the sight of the course starting to be prepared for the day to come.

## 4. WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST ISSUES FACING EQUIPMENT MANAGERS TODAY?

One issue facing equipment managers these days are the budgets. Everybody is wanting to cut costs to save. This does not allow technicians to maintain the equipment properly causing the equipment to wear out quickly. Because of this, equipment needs to be replaced at a faster rate.

## 5. WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE THE BIGGEST ISSUE WILL BE IN THE FUTURE?

A big issue in the future will be all the new technology. Starting very soon all the Tier 4 changes will be in affect causing equipment prices to rise and maintenance prices to go up due to more expensive parts. Also all the new electronics that are being placed on equipment will require special tools and training to use and to make the repairs needed.

## 6. WHO INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST ABOUT EQUIPMENT MANAGEMENT?

My dad is the person who influenced me the most on equipment management. He taught me a bit more than the basics on equipment repair and I took it to the next level to excel at it.



**7. WHAT IS THE MOST VALUABLE THING YOU HAVE LEARNED IN THE GOLF COURSE EQUIPMENT MANAGEMENT PROFESSION?**

The most valuable thing I have learned in this profession is to not be afraid to ask for help. Reach out to other equipment managers if something comes up you have never seen or tackled. Having relationships with other techs is vital.

**8. HOW DO YOU RATE IMPORTANCE OF THE EQUIPMENT MANAGER'S ROLE AND INFLUENCE IN THE GOLF INDUSTRY?**

The equipment manager's role is very crucial to the course and to the industry. We are the ones that keep the heartbeat of the operation going. If we are not around to fix a piece of equipment then the grass will not get cut.

**9. WHAT IS YOUR BIGGEST PET PEEVE CONCERNING GOLF COURSE EQUIPMENT?**

My biggest pet peeve with the equipment is not letting the machine warm up. After hearing a machine start up and then throttled up to full RPM irritates me. Let it run at idle for a min or two, longer for diesels. It makes a big difference in the longevity of the machine.

**10. IF YOU COULD CHANGE ANYTHING ABOUT GOLF COURSE EQUIPMENT MANAGEMENT, WHAT WOULD IT BE?**

I would change how equipment technicians are viewed. Most people see a tech as just someone who fixes things when they are broke. We do a lot more than just fix problems.

**11. WHAT TYPE OF CONTINUING EDUCATION DO YOU FEEL IS VALUABLE TO EQUIPMENT TECHNICIANS?**

Any education or certifications that a technician can get related to equipment repair will further help a person in our field and make them more valuable.

**12. WHAT PERCENTAGE OF YOUR TIME IS DEVOTED TO NON-EQUIPMENT RELATED TASKS?**

I would say I spend about 25% of my time doing other tasks that are not equipment related. I like to get out and jump on a mower every now and again to see how it is functioning and just to get out of the shop for a while to clear my head.

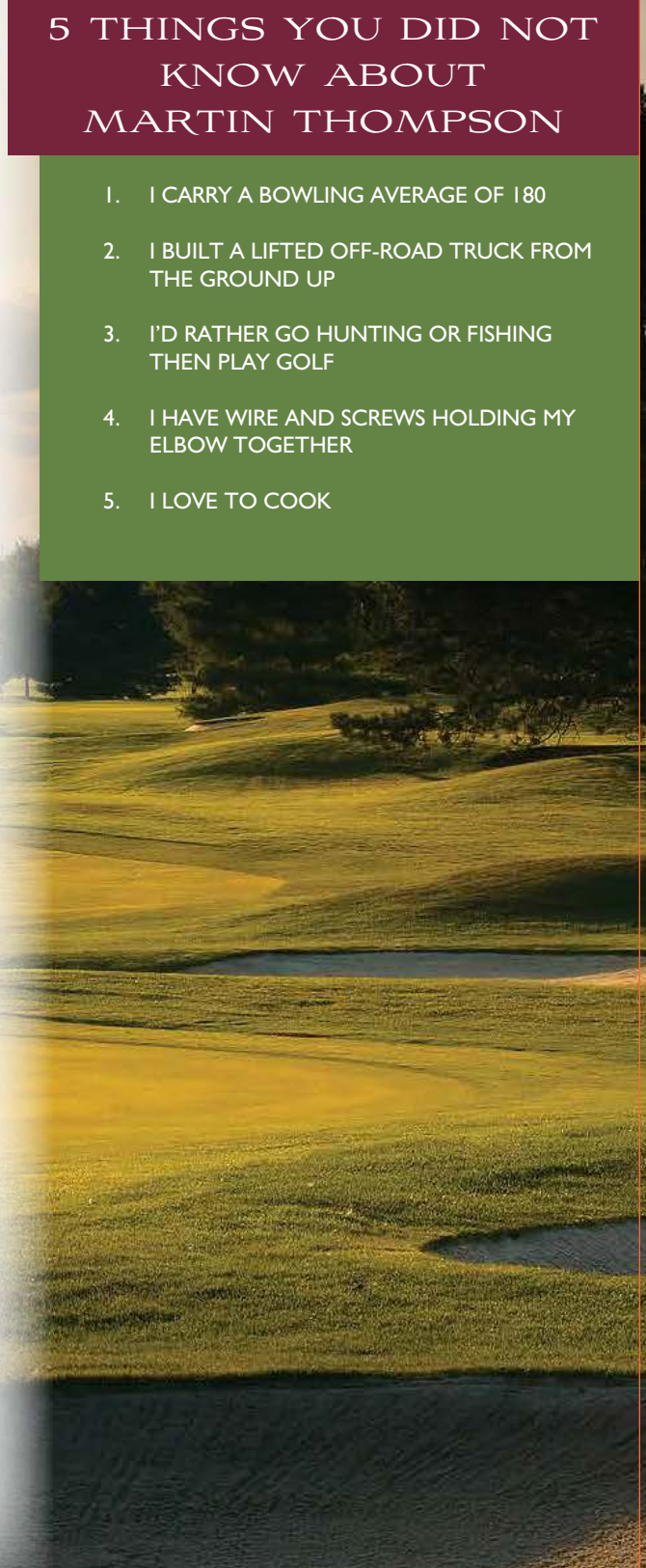
**13. WHAT IS YOUR FUNNIEST STORY FROM ALL OF YOUR YEARS MAINTAINING EQUIPMENT?**

Years ago we had one of our seasonal employees, who was just out of high school, come to work and he had bought a brand new high dollar rain suit. He was so proud of this because he was tired of using the ones we provided. One day we sent him out to hand water some sod we had just laid a few days prior. There was a slight chance of rain so he decided to wear his rain suit just in case. Not too long of time went by and the General Manager of the club came down to the shop and asked the Superintendent and I, what kind of people are we hiring. My boss and I looked at each other then we both said we're not quite sure what you mean. The General Manager then proceeded to tell us he was driving towards the club house and looked over to see the employee spraying the water straight up into the air and letting it fall down onto himself as if it was raining. We later asked the employee why he was doing this and he said he just wanted to test out his rain suit to see if it worked well.



## 5 THINGS YOU DID NOT KNOW ABOUT MARTIN THOMPSON

1. I CARRY A BOWLING AVERAGE OF 180
2. I BUILT A LIFTED OFF-ROAD TRUCK FROM THE GROUND UP
3. I'D RATHER GO HUNTING OR FISHING THEN PLAY GOLF
4. I HAVE WIRE AND SCREWS HOLDING MY ELBOW TOGETHER
5. I LOVE TO COOK





# OFF COURSE

WHAT OUR MEMBERS ARE UP TO WHEN THEY ARE OFF THE COURSE



## ADVENTURES IN CHEESE MAKING

Andrew Dalton, Superintendent, Metamora G&C.C.

I started making cheese about 5 years ago. Cheese making is basically, chemistry and micro-biology, two subjects I wanted to learn more about. I thought to myself is there a better way to learn about those two subjects? I spent time reading, gathering ingredients and tools and just started making cheese. I started out making soft cheeses like Ricotta, Mozzarella and Paneer. All of which could be consumed within minutes of being made and made right from milk you can get at your local grocery store. From there I wanted to make more difficult cheeses like aged firm style pressed cheeses like; Gouda, Colby, Cheddars and Parmesan. These types of cheeses are aged from 3 months all the way to 10 plus years and are made from raw unpasteurized/non-homogenized milk. Creating an environment conducive for aging was challenging. I bought a dorm room sized refrigerator and installed an external thermostat to keep fridge running at 55 degrees and added a pan of salted water for humidity which needs to be about 80%. It's like anything else the more you do it, the more you learn and the better you get at it. Although, not as popular as beer and wine making it's still quite a process and fun.

## FUN ON THE ICE

Greg Pattinson, Superintendent, Indianwood Golf & Country Club

I started officiating hockey in 2005. It is a great way to stay active in the game, get some exercise and have some extra spending money. I used to ref about 250 games a year but have since cut back to around 100 per year concentrating more on high school and college club hockey. It is a tight knit group that we work with and reminds me of the comradery that we have in the golf industry. I was fortunate enough to be selected to work a game at Comerica during the Winter Classic between Brighton and Howell, it was a great experience.



## BOND OF OFFICIATING

Dan Mausolf, Superintendent, Radrick Farms Golf Course

I have worked HS football and basketball since 2000 and NCAA Division 2 football since 2006. I also worked HS baseball in 2000 and volleyball in 2003-2004. I started officiating after high school so I could stay around the sports I enjoy. By doing so it has helped me understand how to communicate with people. That has helped me in my officiating career, at home and on the job. The benefits of working include a "break" from normal day to day activities, exercise and a bond with other officials. That bond is the most important part of it for me. The group of people that I have worked with are willing to do anything at anytime to help a brother out. It is very similar to our superintendent industry. Given the enjoyment of sports and the brotherhood, I will to continue to officiate until my body will no longer let me do so.

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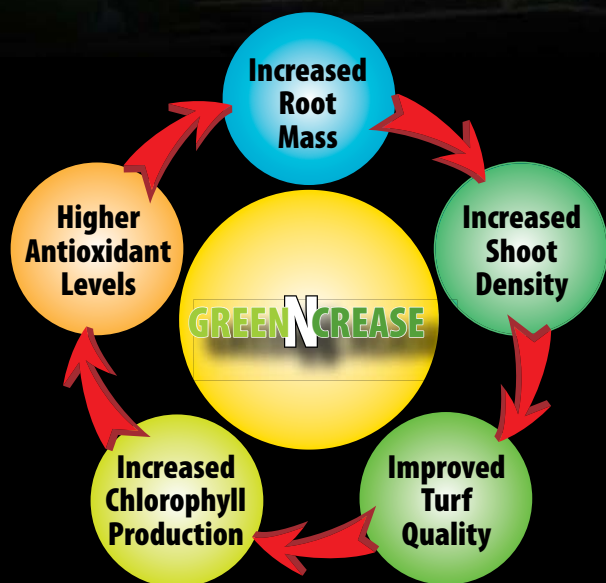
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GreenNcrease rate effects on creeping bentgrass drought resistance. 2009. Ervin, E.H. and X. Zhang. Virginia Tech.



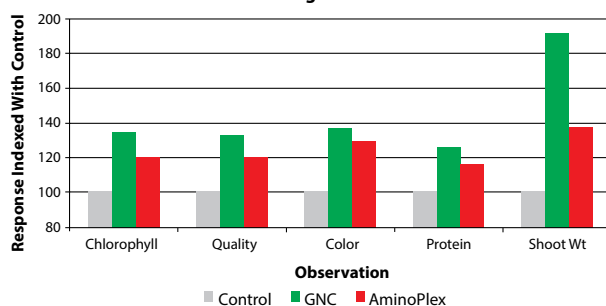
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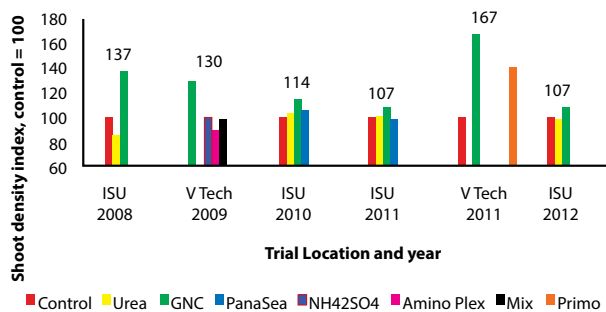
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## GERALD "JERRY" HUSEMANN

BASF Corporation

*Gerald "Jerry" Husemann will celebrate his 25th anniversary with his wife Kathy on August 26th. They have 3 children and 5 grandchildren, Natalie (31), Dustin (31-Stepson), Danielle (28- Stepdaughter). 14 years ago, BASF approached Jerry with an opportunity to join the Specialty T&O Group from the BASF Crop Protection Products Group. He has been with BASF for a total of 26 years.*

### WHERE DID YOU RECEIVE YOUR EDUCATION?

Spoon River College/Canton, IL (Associate Degree in Agri-Management/Applied Sciences) 1978, Western Illinois University/McComb, IL (Degree in Agriculture Business) 1980, Graduated from Farmland Industries, Inc. General Management Program- Kansas City, MO (1986), Currently working on an on-line Business Administration Degree.

### WHO HAS BEEN THE GREATEST INFLUENCE ON YOU IN YOUR PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL LIFE?

My current direct Report, Richard Kalik.

### WHAT IS YOUR BEST ADVICE TO DECISION MAKERS WHEN DOING BUSINESS?

Treat everyone with the respect and empathy that you feel is deserving to yourself.

### WHAT IS THE MOST REWARDING PART OF BEING IN AN INDUSTRY SUPPORT ROLE?

Having the opportunity to make friends and have business relationships with a multitude of very impressive and talented people in the industry.

### WHAT ARE YOUR TRAVEL TIPS FOR THE LESS SEASONED TRAVELER?

Try and schedule only what can be managed in a normal work week, do not schedule too many appointments which can decrease the productive opportunity for each sales call. Stay off the phone especially when in high traffic patterns and avoid sending texts of any kind while driving.

### HOW MANY MILES DO YOU DRIVE IN A TYPICAL YEAR?

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### WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER THE VERY BEST PRODUCT YOU OFFER AND WHY?

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### WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THE PROFESSION YOU ARE IN?

I enjoy helping to provide turf & plant protection against diseases, weeds & insects which make it possible for turf & plants to display their maximum esthetics. I also enjoy the outdoors and the opportunity to help out our customers with their various issues pertaining to having healthy turf & ornamentals.

### HOW LARGE IS YOUR TERRITORY?

Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan & Eastern half of the UP of Michigan.

### WHAT DO YOU ENJOY DOING OUTSIDE OF WORK?

Spending time with the grand kids, my wife & kids

## INDUSTRY PROFILE





## FROM NATIONAL



JOHN MILLER, CGCS

## GCSAA REGIONAL ROUNDUP

BY JOHN MILLER, CGCS – GCSAA MIDWEST FIELD STAFF

*In order to succeed you must have a plan and that is what the MiGCSA has! For two days in April the MiGCSA Board of Directors and Adam Ikamas, Executive Director met in East Lansing to work on a strategic plan that will help guide the chapter over the next few years. The group worked diligently for the two days doing a SCOR analysis of the chapter, taking those outcomes and looking at and revising the mission statement and vision statement. We then took time to craft action items and goals that the board will work on over the next several months and years. The Michigan chapter is one of the best lead and run organizations within the GCSAA network and it is because of the hard work and dedication of its members and the board. I look forward to continuing to work with this chapter in the coming years.*

*As always there is a lot going on at GCSAA. First and foremost as it affects members in Michigan, GCSAA has put together a Winter Resource Center to help our members with information and communication to their golfers and management. In this center you will find links to webcasts, magazine and news articles that will help you provide information to those who need it. There are also links to information provided by other superintendents as to how they were able to battle through the harsh conditions. The EIFG (Environmental Institute for Golf) is making great strides in reaching its member donation mark of 51% of members donating to the institute. During our campaign last fall, we increased our donor number by over 7% and we continue to see more and more superintendents donate to the EIFG. If you have donated, thank you very much, if you have not and would like to donate, you can do so through the website at [www.gcsaa.org](http://www.gcsaa.org) or directly through the EIFG website at [www.eifg.org](http://www.eifg.org). Rounds for Research continues to show great increases. We are still collecting rounds for the two auctions this year, the first one being during the US Open time in June and the second one during PGA Championship time in August. I know that golf courses in Michigan donate to Tee Times for Turf through the MTF but if you would care to participate, you can donate to Rounds for Research as well, get national exposure for your golf course and 80% of the money raised goes to the chapter and can be used for research, government advocacy, education and scholarships. It is a great way to give the chapter extra money while helping out fellow superintendents.*

*On the government advocacy front, there are many items bouncing in the air right now. Pollinator's legislation, methyl bromide legislation and even NPDES Permitting is still on the table. That is just a list of national issues not to mention statewide issues that are popping up in many states around the country. In Chicago, we had legislation put forward that would have eliminated home rule and allowed each city (based on population) make their own rules regarding pesticides. Due to some great work by golf course superintendents and the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents that legislation was dropped and did not make it to a vote. This shows how important it is for each member to be aware of what is going on in local politics and if something concerns you, let your chapter know or let GCSAA know so that we can investigate and if necessary take action. Chava McKeel and her team are great to work with and very quick to respond to member needs.*

*With the rough winter behind us and as we move in to better weather, if there are things GCSAA can help you with from your membership benefits to helping you with information about certain topics, please don't hesitate to contact me or call GCSAA headquarters at 800-472-7878. We are here to serve you and are always happy to help our members!*

Best Wishes,

John

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## MSU TURFGRASS PROGRAM TO ACQUIRE LOW-TEMPERATURE GROWTH CHAMBER FOR TURF RESEARCH

CONTACT: MARIAH MONTENEGRO, MONTENE1@ANR.MSU.EDU, 517-884-7080

Polar temperatures combined with ice this past winter left turf areas in mid- through southeastern Michigan with a large amount of winterkill damage. The destruction is seen on putting greens and other turf areas. The harsh winter weather has had an impact on the turfgrass industry resulting in potential business losses.

"Golf course superintendents not only have to resolve the issue of re-establishing the greens by purchasing seed, fertilizer and covers, but they also may lose revenue from golfers not playing the course, and also losses in food and beverage sales," said Michigan State University (MSU) AgBioResearch scientist Kevin Frank.

The turfgrass industry faces the challenge of the best way to solve the current problem and to prevent similar damage in the future. Because of limited information on winter damage, the MSU Turfgrass team and board members of the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation (MTF) have agreed to obtain a low-temperature growth chamber to help investigate new findings.

The MSU Turfgrass team consists of nine faculty members focused on research, extension and teaching in the areas of turfgrass science that include golf courses, athletic fields, home lawns, sods and commercial properties. The MTF is a nonprofit organization that supports MSU research for better turfgrass maintenance methods.

"The partnership between MSU and the MTF is very strong and effective," said director of MSU AgBioResearch Doug

Buhler. "Together, we are able to promptly respond to this major industry issue and provide scientific insight that will help golf course superintendents throughout Michigan. It's another example of how industries have come to trust and rely on MSU for research solutions to meet their needs."

Emily Merewitz, AgBioResearch scientist, said there is a great need for research facilities, such as this growth chamber, to support research on extreme weather tolerance of cool-surface turfgrass species.

"A low-temperature growth chamber can imitate harsh winter conditions in a controlled setting so that researchers can investigate topics such as ice damage, cold acclimation and de-acclimation, and other issues related to winterkill damage year-round."

Based on this research the MSU Turfgrass team and the MTF hope to identify ways in which superintendents can minimize winterkill injury in the future.





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## THE BETTER HALF



# CRAIG MCKINLEY

*Craig McKinley first started in the golf business with the intent of it being a summer job while he was home from college. It became such a passion that he decided to change schools and majors in order to move forward with an actual turf career. He started out at Walnut Creek Country Club. He knew he wanted to do this as a career because he never dreaded getting up to go to work that first summer. Craig has been married to his wife Julie for three years and is starting his second year at Bucks Run this spring.*

## WHERE DID YOU RECEIVE YOUR EDUCATION?

I have a two year turf certificate from Penn State's online program and am currently finishing my bachelors. **What part of that education do you use most often on the job?** I would say a mix of soils and pathology.

## WHAT DID YOU LEARN FROM THAT SUPERINTENDENT IN THE FIRST YEAR?

Ed Hock, CGCS taught me a lot about the time and dedication that it takes to succeed in this industry. He was very supportive of me while I was going to school and made sure to connect real world applications with the things I was learning at the time.

## WHAT DO YOU DO IN YOUR SPARE TIME?

My wife and I like to target shoot as a couple. We like to travel up north to visit family and I also love to grill.

## DO YOU PLAY GOLF? WHAT IS YOUR HANDICAP?

I do and my handicap is around an 18. **What is your favorite golf course that you have played?** Meadowbrook Country Club. **What golf course would you love to experience once in your lifetime?** St. Andrews. **What is your favorite golf club in the bag?** 9 iron

## WHO MAKES YOU LAUGH THE MOST ON YOUR CREW AND WHY?

Our mechanic Bill Phelps has a great sense of humor, and we have a lot of fun at each other's expense.

## WHO IS THE GREATEST INFLUENCE IN YOUR PERSONAL LIFE?

My wife is the best influence in my life. She makes me want to be better at everything I do, and she keeps me grounded. She has always supported me in my ambitions and has been gracious enough to pick up roots and move to make them happen. As corny as it sounds, she is my rock.

## NAME ANY THREE PEOPLE WHO WOULD MAKE UP YOUR "DREAM SCRAMBLE TEAM"

John Daly, Miguel Ángel Jiménez, and Phil Mickelson.

## WHY DID YOU CHOOSE A TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT CAREER PATH?

I liked the idea of working at a place that other people came to play. I also enjoyed the different challenges that each day brings, and bringing a team together to accomplish a goal.

## WHAT ARE YOUR EXPECTATIONS FROM THE MICHIGAN GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION?

Continue to educate its members on issues that affect our state. I would also like to see the Turf Chats continue, and get a larger base of participation.

**WHAT IS THE MOST DIFFICULT PART OF YOUR JOB?**

The grind is always the hardest part of this job. It is important to not get bogged down during the grind it out parts of the season, and continue to lead and motivate.

**WHAT RESEARCH WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE ACCOMPLISHED FOR TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT?**

After this winter, some new ice studies. There are a lot of questions and theories on snow/ice removal from putting greens, and it would be interesting to see them all side by side.

**WHAT DO YOU SEE FOR THE NEXT GENERATION OF ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENTS?**

A longer time spent as an Assistant and a smaller amount of opportunities to advance. These longer stints as Assistants will make for some very talented individuals.

**WHO INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST ABOUT TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT, WHO ELSE INFLUENCED YOU PERSONALLY?**

I have worked for three great superintendents in Ed Hock CGCS, Scott Rettmann, and Jeff Sweet CGCS. Though I was only with Scott for a short time he helped me to understand the professional side of the business, and how to go above and beyond member's expectations. Jeff Sweet has been great to me this past year and I continue to learn from him every day. He has helped form my agronomic style and hone my skills on the golf course. Beyond just the golf course, he has shown me how to live a balanced life doing this job that can be so demanding. He is a better mentor than I could have hoped for. Also my uncle Mark McKinley, who first showed me this industry, and continues to be a source of support and encouragement.

**WHAT IS THE MOST VALUABLE THING YOU HAVE LEARNED IN THE GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT PROFESSION?**

What you learned in school is only part of what you need to succeed. A successful Assistant needs to be a leader and manager, not just have the book smarts.

**WHAT IS YOUR BIGGEST PET PEEVE CONCERNING GOLF COURSE ETIQUETTE?**

Golfer's not repairing ball marks on putting surfaces.

**WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF THE ROLE OF THE MECHANIC IN RELATIONSHIP TO THE ASSISTANT?**

It is second only to the relationship between the Superintendent and the Assistant. It is important to have open communication with your mechanic about things going on and things that are planned. This way there is no last minute rush to get things dialed in to carry out tasks. Our mechanic Bill Phelps and I have a great working relationship, and he is one of the best.

**PLEASE DESCRIBE IN DETAIL ONE TRUE FUNNY STORY FROM YOUR CAREER THAT YOU SHARE WHEN IN THE COMPANY OF OTHERS IN THE INDUSTRY.**

Before I left Walnut Creek CC, the equipment tech Hector Velasquez and I were goofing off with his video camera. I was throwing down some dance moves and we were having a good time. A couple weeks later I was at Bucks Run Golf Club and Jeff Sweet comes out of the office and starts doing the dance move "the lawn mower". I asked him where he saw that, and he told me that he saw my video and that it was on Turf Net via hectorsshop.com. That is the birth of the most embarrassing video of my life known as the "Huggie Low Down".



## 5 THINGS YOU DID NOT KNOW ABOUT CRAIG MCKINLEY

1. DESPITE BEING A PENN STATE STUDENT, I AM A SPARTAN FAN
2. I COLLECT FIREARMS
3. I HAVE WORKED AT BOTH PRIVATE AND DAILY FEE COURSES
4. I WAS RAISED ON A SMALL FARM
5. I ENJOY GARDENING AND CANNING







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# THE 2014 SPRING OPENER

**T**hank you to Alex Greenacre, CGCS and his staff including MiGCSA Members Ryan Riesenberg, James Granfield and Kevin Thren for hosting the 2014 Spring Opener. With the cool spring it was a challenge to get the course ready and for members to attend. It turned out to be a beautiful spring day at Tullymore Golf Club in Stanwood.

Close to 50 attended and enjoyed a round and the camaraderie with their fellow members. This was a team scramble event and the winning team of Craig Kooienga, Mike Leavitt, Al Lynch and Kevin Haack shot a blistering 59. The proximity prizes were won by Bob Stipcak for his closest to the pin on #5, Mike Thorsen on #15 with a closest to the pin and Jim Higgs took home the long drive on #2.




After the event MiGCSA Vice President Jeff Holmes, CGCS updated the group on the importance of attending these events. This is the best way to support the MiGCSA is to come and enjoy these meetings with your peers, if you do not learn something from someone at one of these gatherings you must not be trying or not attending. The next event in the Western District will be the Western Golf Day at Battle Creek Country Club on September 9th.



*Craig Kooienga, Mike Leavitt, Al Lynch and Kevin Haack the 2014 Spring Opener Champions.*

*MiGCSA Vice President Jeff Holmes, CGCS presents the appreciation plaques to our host Alex Greenacre, CGCS.*



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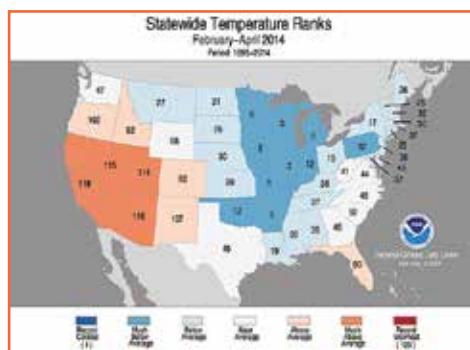


# A CALL FROM CAMPUS

## WINTERKILL RECOVERY: SLOW AND STEADY

Dr. Kevin W. Frank, Michigan State University

Unfortunately the recovery from winterkill seems to be following the common saying of slow and steady wins the race. The recent temperature spike in the last several days has certainly helped the recovery but the forecast is a roller coaster with highs ranging from 50 to 70 and even whispers of a possible frost event before the end of the week. Statewide temperature ranks provided from NOAA National Climatic Data Center indicate the period of February-April to be among the coldest on record for Michigan. Temperature ranks for Michigan in April were classified as near normal but based on data from the last 120 years I would suggest it was closer to the below average rank. In April Michigan's temperature rank was 46, indicating that of the 120 years of data 45 years had cooler temperatures and 74 had warmer temperatures. In a typical year where winterkill reestablishment wasn't an issue these temperatures probably wouldn't have been much of an issue but this year it was definitely not ideal for establishing turf on putting greens.



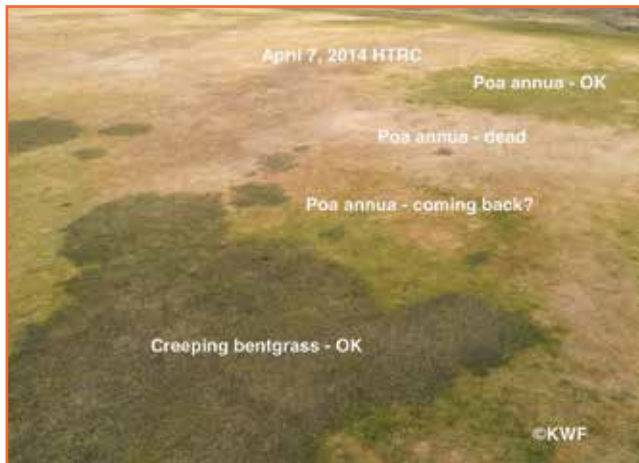
NCDC Statewide Temperature Ranks Feb-April 2014.



NCDC Statewide Temperature Ranks April 2014.

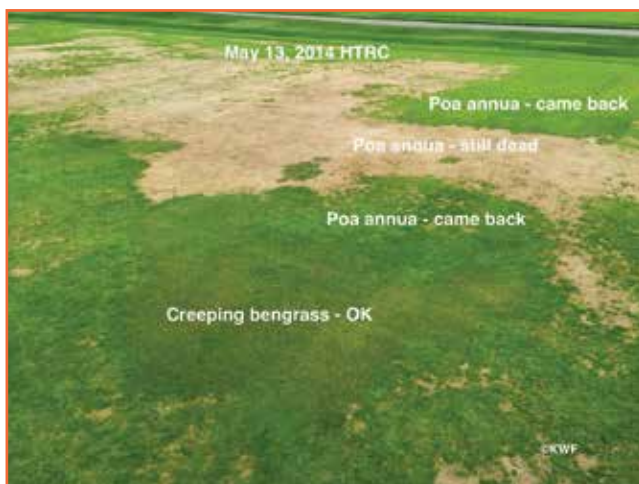
## Still Assessing Life and Death

In the April 17 blog post (<http://msuturf.blogspot.com/2014/04/winterkill-and-recovery-update.html>) the picture of 'the different colors of winterkill' was presented which was taken on April 7. At that time I was attempting to assess survival of *Poa annua* displaying different colors.



*The different colors of winterkill, April 7, 2014.*

The picture below was taken on May 13. As the picture indicates the areas of *Poa annua* that I thought might survive did survive and have now filled in with living, breathing *Poa annua*. Unfortunately the areas that I thought were dead still appear dead. In some of these severely damaged areas of *Poa annua* we are observing some recovery but it's doubtful that without seeding creeping bentgrass into these areas recovery will be sufficient.



*The different colors of winterkill, May 13, 2014.*

## Reestablishment and Opening Greens for Play

Temporary greens are still in play on many golf courses and as expected the pressure to play greens is only increasing. Many golf courses had planned or hoped to open severely damaged greens that had to be reseeded by June 1. Although every course differs in how quickly they are recovering the June 1 date now appears somewhat unrealistic for the most severely damaged greens. One of the most common questions is how soon can we play the greens? My typical response is that when we establish greens (which is essentially what we're doing) we don't go from seed to play in 45 days, which is approximately what a June 1 target date would mean.



*Many severely damaged greens are still not ready for play.*

My suggestion is to assess each green individually and open greens as soon as you determine they are ready for play. Of course the logistics and pressure of making these decisions can be immense as golfers may 'suggest' that you open a series of consecutive greens to allow for consecutive playing of holes and/or facilitating posting 9 hole scores for handicap purposes. The concern with trafficking newly seeded greens too soon is that the turf will lose density and the greens will essentially go backwards in terms of turf cover. Ultimately this could lead to turf thinning and loss that by July and August may result in golfers playing on a mix of bare soil, algae, and moss.



## THE 38TH ANNUAL CAN-AM



**T**he 38th Annual Can-Am at Indianwood Golf & Country Club got off to a great start, but after about three holes the horn blew for lightning in the area. After a delay until close to 1:00 the groups headed back out to try to complete the matches but were again thwarted by the spring thunderstorm. The golf course was primed for the group by MiGCSA Past President Greg Pattinson and his crew but Mother Nature had different plans. At 3:00 the buffet was served and everyone enjoyed the fantastic spread. Whenever a Can-Am has been cancelled in the past the cup went back to the retaining team, so the cup was retained by the OGSA for the second year in a row. Look out for plans now in the works for the 2015 matches.



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## ASSOCIATION UPDATE



ADAM IKAMAS, CGCS

**Pushing the Flywheel**

If you have ever read the book Good to Great you will understand the flywheel concept in the title of this article. When companies go from good to great it is because they have a singular concept that they work towards every day. This is like pushing a heavy flywheel that is hard to get moving in the

beginning but as more and more people believe in the concept and help push the flywheel you start to build momentum, this momentum causes more people to get behind the idea and this is when breakthrough happens from being good to being great. The MiGCSA is gaining momentum right now.

The week of April 1st through April 4th was a big one for the MiGCSA. It was a week filled with big picture ideas and completed visions of many of the founders of the Chapter. The week started with the Ice & Recovery Seminar at Oakland Hills Country Club. This event was the direct result of a member, Steve Cook, CGCS, MG seeing a need in the industry and offering a solution. Steve has been at the forefront of the possible ice damage in the Detroit area and thought it would be a good idea to host a meeting for Superintendents to attend with their decision makers, GM, Green Committee, Owners and Golf Professionals. From this idea the event grew to 215 attendees and presentations on the climate, the ice, and how to recover from the possible damage. Although I wish it was for a happier topic it was the first time that our statewide association was the leading body on an issue in the state of Michigan. Not that we were not looked at as the leading group for turf before, but this was the first time we invited the allied associations to an event we produced. This type of communication with stakeholders would have been close to impossible without the unified state chapter. This was an example of some of the strategic thinking behind the MiGCSA from the first discussions many years ago. This is a result of more people pushing the flywheel and will lead to even more.

On April 2nd and 3rd the MiGCSA Board of Directors gathered for a two day strategic planning meeting in East Lansing at the Hancock Turfgrass Research Center. Steve Randall and John Miller, CGCS from the GCSAA Field Staff conducted the meeting. This is the third official strategic planning meeting the chapter has conducted. The last was in April of 2012; we reviewed the notes from that meeting and were pleased with the progress from the directives of that plan and their current status. In these meetings we go over an S.C.O.R. analysis, this is an acronym for Strengths, Challenges, Opportunities and Risks this is followed by the revision of our Mission, Vision and Goals. Our mission statement has not changed much, we just added the word promote, it now reads: The MiGCSA is dedicated to providing value to our members through programs and services

*The MiGCSA Board at the two day Strategic Planning*

that enhance and promote our profession. Our Vision statement has changed significantly and it came from one simple idea brought to our attention by Past President John Fulling, CGCS. People don't believe in what you do but why you do it. So the Board and I struggled with how to answer this question, why does the MiGCSA do what we do? We know what we do, that is easy, we can print that and come up with bullet points easily, but why that is the question we grinded on. Our previous vision had 5 bullet points which were all really good things that we do. Here is our previous Vision Statement: Michigan Golf Course Superintendents Association members will be consistently recognized as: A community of professionals networking and supporting one another to enhance their position in the golf industry, Supporters of scholarships, education and research efforts to benefit our members, Professionals working to enhance environmental stewardship, Leaders on initiatives to grow the game of golf, Crucial to the economic vitality of golf, Actively participating in the betterment of their communities. But if you ask yourself why we do these things it is because The Michigan Golf Course Superintendents Association is passionate about its members and the golf industry. I really think that sums up so much of what our Members do, every successful person in this industry is passionate about their profession. As a chapter we need to be just as passionate about why we do the things we do.

When people believe in why you do what you do it causes more of them to help push the flywheel. We are in an exciting new stage with the MiGCSA, momentum is building, and great ideas for the future are becoming less of a hope and more of a reality. Thank you all for being members of this great organization.

Adam Ikamas, CGCS  
MiGCSA Executive Director



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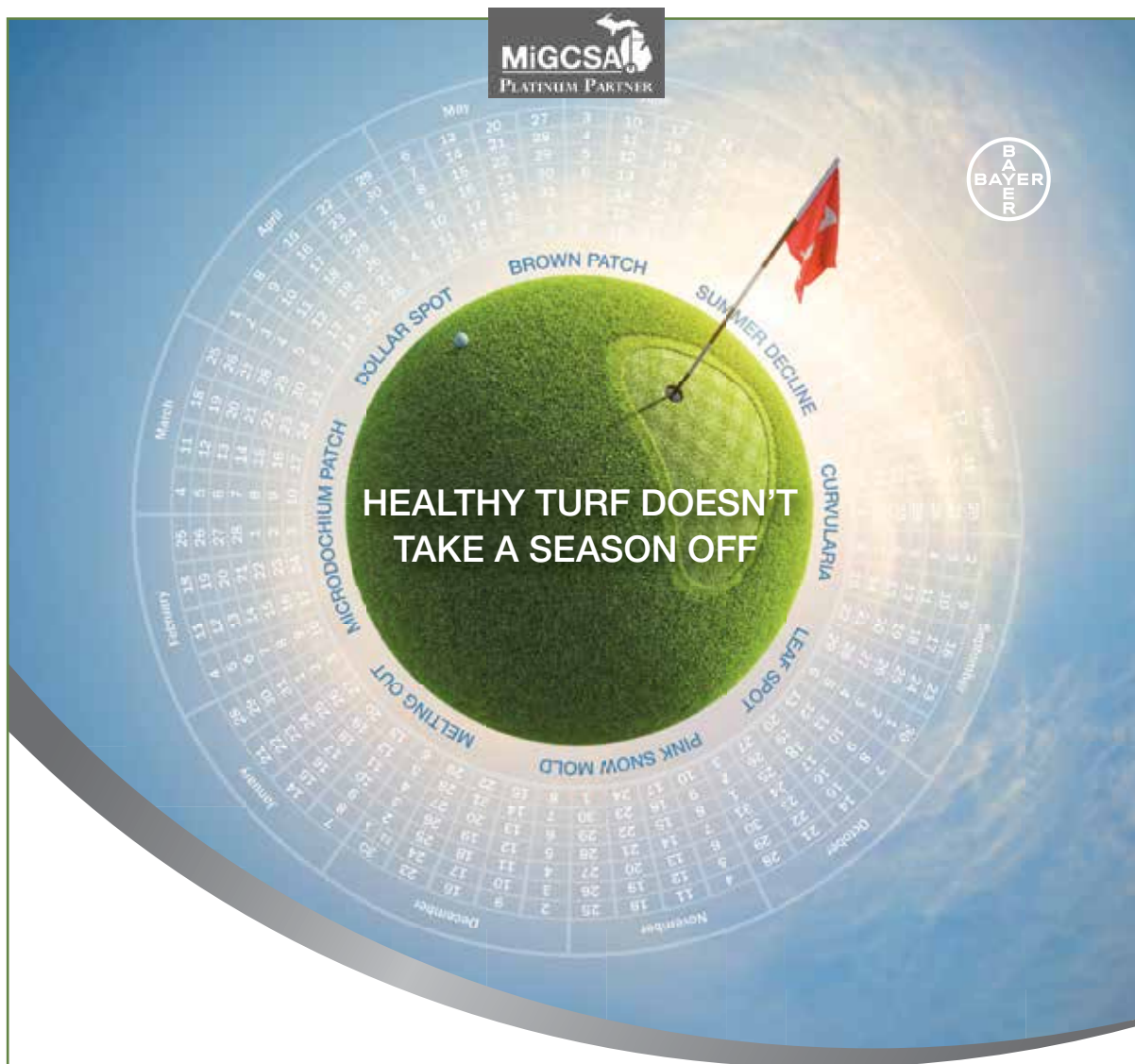
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